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In determining top national policy, President Kennedy is receiving a greater number of alternative recommendations from his advisors than his White House predecessors ever obtained from their aides.

One reason for this has been elimination of the planning board of the National Security Council. The NSC, consisting of the chief executive and his closest counselors on international and military affairs, is the nation's highest-level policy body.

In previous administrations, NSC assignments were made to the planning board. It attempted to produce recommendations which had the full backing of the departments involved. A paper on a particular topic was meant to be a specific recommendation regarding the position that the United States should take.

Result Often Was Compromise

Efforts were made to reconcile the views of the State and Defense Departments. The result in many cases was compromise. Critics contended that NSC planning board proposals were so watered down in the attempt to please everyone that they were of little value.

With the abolition of the planning board, Mr. Kennedy now assigns responsibility for a position to one individual—the secretary of defense, the secretary of state, or the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, for example. This one man is accountable for preparing his own recommendation and for obtaining either agreement or a statement of conflicting views from the others.

The President then is presented with a unanimous recommendation, if one exists, or with various sharp proposals if the cabinet officers have disagreed.

Yearlings to Visit Ike on Farm

Freshmen Republican members of the House will journey to Gettysburg Sept. 11 to visit with and get words of political wisdom from Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower. The invitations say the former president would like to have the GOP yearlings "spend the day" on the Eisenhower farm.

Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges has asked President Kennedy to see more business groups and individuals when they are in Washington. Within reasonable bounds, the President has agreed.

By her own modest appraisal, Eve Curie is "just a Washington housewife" these days.

Biographer, lecturer, newspaper publisher, holder of both the Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre, the daughter of the woman who discovered radium is married to Henry R. Labouisse, director of the International Cooperation Administration.

She does much of her own cooking, classifies herself as an "adequate, unspectacular cook" but a "dedicated shopper" and is an unremitting foe of the use of garlic in American dishes.

Bobby Helps Former Boss

Sen. John McClellan, D-Ark., has been getting a lot of help from one of his former employees, Robert F. Kennedy, once chief counsel for the McClellan committee and now attorney general. Kennedy is lending a hand in the committee's probe of organized gambling.

The Central Intelligence Agency has not yet moved into its magnificent new building in McLean, Va. But some officials already fear it will be too small.

President Kennedy has not played golf since he hurt his back planting a ceremonial tree in Ottawa three months ago, but he has been taking a dip in the White House swimming pool almost daily.

Opened with a fanfare of publicity in June, the first United States plant to extract fresh water from the sea is closed down for repairs. The reason: Too much salt in the water. Engineers are making several modifications, and the Freeport, Tex., plant will be back in operation in the next couple of weeks.

'If You Can't Beat 'Em, Bury 'Em'

Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, R-N.Y., tells about a letter he received from an Iowa preacher criticizing the New Yorker's stand against the feed grain program.

"I will not attempt to tell you how low you are," the clergyman wrote the senator. "Shame, thrice shame on you. I once preached in a church where an elder said that the congregation would be improved if we had a few first-class funerals. Could this possibly apply to the U.S. Senate?"

Keating's comment: "The minister's motto seems to be 'If you can't beat 'em, bury 'em.'"

The American Medical Association News says that a survey of doctors shows they favor seat belts in automobiles. Overwhelmingly, they say the safety belts should be standard equipment in cars.